a search step, of searching the schedule memory for a pending task relevant to the new task when said entry adder adds the new task; and

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a notification step, of notifying the user of the pending task relevant to the new task.

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 1, 2001. Claims 5, 7, 9, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23 to 26 and 28 to 32 remain in the application of which Claims 5, 7, 9, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23 to 26 and 28 to 32 have been amended. Claims 5, 7, 9, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 28 and 32 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 7, 9, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 28 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,855,006 (Huemoeller), and Claims 24 to 26 and 29 to 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Huemoeller. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention of amended independent Claims 5, 7, 9, 15, 17, 19, and 21 detects that a user is about to depart from being present at an information processing apparatus in response to an ending instruction from a user. A search is performed for a pending task either to be performed within a predetermined timeframe (Claims 5, 15 and 21), relevant to destination of the user that is inferred from a user's schedule (Claims 7 and 17), or relevant to a person with whom the user is scheduled to meet that is inferred from the user's schedule (Claims 9 and 19). For example, as

described with regard to Figures 32 to 35, a user issues an ending instruction such as "See you tomorrow", "See you later", or "just a moment", whereby a mode change occurs from "Present" to "Left" as seen in Fig. 34A resulting in a report of data the user should recall (Fig. 35). As a result, when a user is about to leave, and enters an ending instruction, they can be reminded of upcoming tasks to be performed.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 5 is an information processing apparatus comprising a detector that detects, in response to an ending instruction from a user, that the user is about to depart from being present at the information processing apparatus, a search unit that searches for a pending task to be performed by the user within a predetermined timeframe when the detector detects that the user is about to depart, and a notifier that notifies the user of the pending task to be performed within the predetermined timeframe when the pending task is found by the search unit.

Amended independent Claims 15 and 21 are method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 5.

Amended independent Claim 7 is an information processing apparatus comprising a detector that detects, in response to an ending instruction from a user, that the user is about to depart from being present at the information processing apparatus, an inferring unit that infers a destination of a user based on a user's schedule when the detector detects that the user is about to depart, a search unit that searches for a pending task relevant to the destination of the user when the detector detects that the user is about to

depart, and a notifier that notifies the user of the pending task relevant to the destination of the user.

Amended independent Claim 17 is a method claim substantially corresponding to Claim 7.

Amended independent Claim 9 is an information processing apparatus comprising a detector that detects, in response to an ending instruction form a user, that the user is about to depart from being present at the information processing apparatus, an inferring unit that infers a person with whom the user is scheduled to meet based on a user's schedule when the detector detects that the user is about to depart, a search unit that searches for a pending task relevant to the person with whom the user is scheduled to meet when the detector detects that the user is about to depart, and a notifier that notifies the user of the pending task relevant to the person with whom the user is scheduled to meet.

Amended independent Claim 19 is a method claim substantially corresponding to Claim 9.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 5, 7, 9, 15, 17, 19 and 21. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of detecting, in response to an ending instruction from a user, that a user is about to depart from being present at an information processing apparatus, and searching for a pending task to be performed within a predetermined timeframe based on the detected result (Claims 5, 15 and 21), searching for a pending task relevant to a destination of the user, where the pending task is inferred from a user's schedule (Claims 7 and 17), or searching for a pending task relevant to a person

with whom the user is scheduled to meet, where the pending task is inferred from the user's schedule (Claims 9 and 19).

Huemoeller is seen to disclose a system wherein when a user designates a certain day for travel to obtain information regarding available flights or hotels, trivia data indicating events that generally take place on the designated day in prior years, and a coupon for the day are also provided (col. 2, line 12 to col. 3, line 20). However, there is nothing in Huemoeller that is seen to disclose or to suggest performing a search and notifying a user of a pending task in response to an ending instruction from the user. Accordingly, Huemoeller is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of detecting, in response to an ending instruction from a user, that a user is about to depart from being present at an information processing apparatus, and searching for a pending task to be performed within a predetermined timeframe based on the detected result (Claims 5, 15 and 21), searching for a pending task relevant to a destination of the user, where the pending task is inferred from a user's schedule (Claims 7 and 17), or searching for a pending task relevant to a person with whom the user is scheduled to meet, where the pending task is inferred from the user's schedule (Claims 9 and 19).

Therefore, amended independent Claims 5, 7, 9, 15, 17, 19 and 21 are believed to be allowable.

Amended independent Claims 23, 28 and 32 concern notifying a user of a pending task. According to the invention, when a new task is added to a schedule, a search is performed for a pending task relevant to the new task being added. The user is then

notified of the pending task that is relevant to new task. As a result, users can be reminded of pending tasks when a new task is added to a schedule.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 23 is an information processing apparatus comprising a schedule storage, for storing a plurality of pending tasks, an entry adder, that adds a new task to the schedule storage, a search unit that searches the schedule storage for a pending task relevant to the new task when the entry adder adds the new task, and a notifier that notifies the user of the pending task relevant to the new task.

Amended independent Claims 28 and 32 are method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 23.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 23, 28 and 32. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of searching a schedule storage for a pending task relevant to a new task when the new task is added to a schedule storage, and notifying a user of the pending task relevant to the new task.

Huemoeller is seen to disclose a scheduling system in which, when a user opts to add a new entry to the schedule, such as a sporting event, the system searches a database which may include ticket prices and a seating chart for the sporting event so that the user can complete the process of adding the new entry. Thus, in Huemoeller, the search is performed as part of the process of adding the new entry and is not performed when the new task has been added. That is, in Huemoeller, the new task is not added until after the search is performed. Moreover, the search in Huemoeller is not a search for a pending task

stored in the schedule (i.e., a task which has already been scheduled), but rather a search for additional information (ticket price and seating) that is required to complete the entry of the new task. Accordingly, Huemoeller is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of searching a schedule storage for a pending task relevant to a new task when the new task is added to a schedule storage, and notifying a user of the pending task relevant to the new task. Therefore, amended independent Claims 23, 28 and 32 are believed to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

5. (Four Times Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a detector that detects, [based on a user's schedule] in response to an ending instruction from a user, that the user is [scheduled] about to depart from being present at the information processing apparatus;

a search unit that searches for a pending task to be performed by the user within a predetermined timeframe when said detector detects that the user is [scheduled] about to depart; and

a notifier that notifies the user of the pending task to be performed within the predetermined timeframe when the pending task is found by said search unit.

7. (Four Times Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a detector that detects, [based on a user's schedule] in response to an ending instruction from a user, that the user is [scheduled] about to depart from being present at the information processing apparatus [and a destination of the user];

an inferring unit that infers a destination of a user based on a user's schedule when said detector detects that the user is about to depart;

a search unit that searches for a pending task relevant to the destination of the user when said detector detects that the user is about to depart; and

a notifier that notifies the user of the pending task relevant to the destination of the user.

9. (Four Times Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a detector that detects, [based on a user's schedule] in response to an ending instruction form a user, that the user is [scheduled] about to depart from being present at the information processing apparatus [and a person with whom the user is scheduled to meet];

an inferring unit that infers a person with whom the user is scheduled to meet based on a user's schedule when said detector detects that the user is about to depart;

a search unit that searches for a pending task relevant to the person with whom the user is scheduled to meet when said detector detects that the user is [scheduled] about to depart; and

a notifier that notifies the user of the pending task relevant to the person with whom the user is scheduled to meet.

15. (Four Times Amended) An information processing method comprising the steps of:

a detection step of detecting, [based on a user's schedule] in response to an ending instruction from a user, that the user is [scheduled] about to depart from being present at an information processing apparatus;

a searching step of searching for a pending task to be performed by the user within a predetermined timeframe when said detecting step detects that the user is [scheduled] about to depart; and

a notification step of notifying the user of the pending task to be performed within the predetermined time when the pending task is found in said searching step.

17. (Four Times Amended) An information processing method comprising the steps of:

a detecting step of detecting, [based on a user's schedule] in response to an ending instruction from a user, that the user is [scheduled] about to depart from being present at an information processing apparatus [and a destination of the user];

an inferring step of inferring a destination of a user based on a user's schedule when said detecting step detects that the user is about to depart;

a searching step of searching for a pending task relevant to the destination of the user when said detecting step detects that the user is [scheduled] about to depart; and

a notification step of notifying the user of the pending task relevant to the destination of the user.

19. (Four Times Amended) An information processing method comprising the steps of:

a detecting step of detecting, [based on a user's schedule] in response to an ending instruction from a user, that the user is [scheduled] about to depart from being present at an information processing apparatus [and a person with whom the user is scheduled to meet];

an inferring step of inferring a person with whom the user is scheduled to meet based on a user's schedule when said detecting step detects that the user is about to depart;

a searching step of searching for a pending task relevant to the person with whom the user is scheduled to meet when said detecting step detects that the user is [scheduled] about to depart ; and

a notification step of notifying the user of the pending task relevant to the person with whom the user is scheduled to meet.

21. (Four Times Amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for controlling a computer, the program comprising the steps of:

a detection step of detecting, [based on a user's schedule] in response to an ending instruction from a user, that the user is [scheduled] about to depart from being present at an information processing apparatus;

a searching step of searching for a pending task to be performed by the user within a predetermined timeframe when said detecting step detects that the user is [scheduled] about to depart; and

a notification step of notifying the user of the pending task to be performed within the predetermined timeframe when the pending task is found in said searching step.

23. (Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a schedule storage, for storing a plurality of pending [undertakings] tasks;

an entry adder, that adds a new [undertaking] task to said schedule storage;

a search unit [to search] that searches said schedule storage for a pending [undertaking] task relevant to the new [undertaking] task when said entry adder adds the new task; and

a notifier [to notify] that notifies the user of the pending [undertaking] task relevant to the new [undertaking] task.

24. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein said search unit searches a pending [undertaking] task relevant to a location where the new [undertaking] task is to be performed.

25. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein said search unit searches a pending [undertaking] task relevant to a person related to the new [undertaking] task.

26. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein said search unit searches a pending [undertaking] task to be performed subsequent to the new [undertaking] task.

28. (Amended) An information processing method comprising:

an addition step, of adding a new [undertaking] task to a schedule memory for storing a plurality of pending [undertakings] tasks;

a search step, of searching the schedule memory for a pending [undertaking] task relevant to the new [undertaking] task when said entry adder adds the new task; and

a notification step, of notifying the user of the pending [undertaking] task relevant to the new [undertaking] task.

29. (Amended) An information processing method according to Claim 28, wherein, in said search step, a search is performed for a pending [undertaking] task relevant to a location where the new [undertaking] task is to be performed.

30. (Amended) An information processing method according to Claim 28, wherein, in said search step, a search is performed for a pending [undertaking] task relevant to a person related to the new [undertaking] task.

31. (Amended) An information processing method according to Claim 28, wherein, in said search step, a search is performed for a pending [undertaking] task to be performed subsequent to the new [undertaking] task.

32. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for controlling a computer, the program comprising codes for permitting the computer to perform:

an addition step, of adding a new [undertaking] task to a schedule memory for storing a plurality of pending [undertakings] tasks;

a search step, of searching the schedule memory for a pending [undertaking] task relevant to the new [undertaking] task when said entry adder adds the new task; and

a notification step, of notifying the user of the pending [undertaking] task relevant to the new [undertaking] task.